

Appendix A

Close Air Support Aircrew Mission Planning Guide

Note: This is a notional mission planning guide. It provides a generalized list of planning considerations and information found to be useful by various combat units. *Units should always prepare their own checklists and guidelines, and these should be tailored to their mission, situation, and equipment.*

CLOSE AIR SUPPORT OVERVIEW

Friendly Situation

- Forward line of own troops (FLOT)
- CPs/IPs
- Scheme of maneuver
 - Target area
 - Key terrain
 - Terminal controller position and call sign
 - Supporting arms:
 - (1) Artillery positions

(2) Mortars

(3) NSFS

(4) Gun target lines

- Control Measures:

(1) FSCL/CFL

(2) NFAs

(3) FFAs

(4) RFAs

(5) Missile engagement zone (MEZ)/fighter engagement zone (FEZ) and status

(6) Airspace control areas

Intelligence

- Enemy position and number
 - Projected intent
 - Likely avenues of approach
 - Observed tactics
- Supporting elements
- Threats

Close Air Support ————— **A - 3**

- Locations
- Threat guidance (radar/optical/IR systems)
- Threat capabilities
- Indications and warnings
- Employment doctrine

Weather: Takeoff/Target/Land

- Ceiling
- Visibility
- Temperature/dew point
- Winds

Environment

- Sun azimuth
- Sun elevation
- Sunset time
- Moon azimuth
- Moon elevation
- Percent illumination

- Lux level
- Absolute humidity
- Historical temperature
- Predominant albedos
- Urban lighting

Mission/Objective

- Mission statement
- Unit supporting
- Target precedence
- Priority of fires
- Preplanned Missions
 - USMTF
 - Groups/series
 - Search sectors
- TOT/TOS
- Divert authority
- ROEs

Control Procedures

- AOA Entry
 - Routing
 - Altitude/airspeed
 - Available control agencies
 - Air asset deconfliction
- CEOI
 - Authentication
 - HAVE QUICK
 - Secure voice
 - Code/procedure words (pro words)
 - Changeover

EXECUTION

Ground Procedures

- Alert posture and upgrades
- Mission tape/cartridge load (DSU/DTUC, etc.)

- NVG eye lane
- AKAC issue/checkout
- Walk time
- Weapons preflight
- Aircraft preflight
- Engine start time
 - INS alignment anomalies
 - Aircraft lighting
 - FLIR checks
 - Built-in test (BIT) checks
- Marshal
- Go/no-go criteria (aircraft and systems)
- Check-in
 - HAVE QUICK checks
 - KY-58/secure voice checks
- Taxi plan
 - Foreign object damage (FOD) prevention
 - NVD checks
- Weapons arming

Airborne Transition

- Takeoff
 - Position
 - Arresting gear
 - Takeoff type
 - Calls
 - Takeoff aborts with ordnance
- Climb out
 - Rendezvous
 - Profile:
 - (1) Altitudes
 - (2) Airspeed
 - (3) Power settings
 - Formation: lookout/scan tasking
 - NVD donning
 - Light package

En route

- C2
 - Primary check-in
 - Alternate check-in
 - Terminology
- Combat checks
 - Sensor boresight
 - Weapon boresight
 - Expendable checks
 - Environmental assessment
 - Radar altimeter check
- Routing
 - Stack/hold/push points
 - Time/fuel management
 - Emitter/lights management

Aerial Refueling

- Time

- Track
- Base altitude/altitude blocks
- Tanker call sign
- Offloads
- Tank window/time on boom/cycle sequence
- Formation procedures
- Post-aerial refueling
- Aerial refueling emergencies

Attack Phase

- Threat zones
- Combat checks
- CAS brief
 - Holding:
 - (1) Profile
 - (2) Formation
 - (3) Tasking/responsibility
 - (4) Deconfliction
 - System interface

- Cadence
- System update
- Terminal control
 - Communications:
 - (1) Required calls
 - (2) Reasonable assurance
 - Restricted run-ins
 - Available marks
 - Laser code/code words
 - Minimum capable TOT
- Attack blueprint
 - Preplanned missions: changes to the plan
 - Immediate missions:
 - (1) Push profile:
 - (a) Formation
 - (b) Tasking
 - (2) Separation:
 - (a) Initiation
 - (b) Geometry/timing

(3) Attack Parameters:

- (a) Lead
- (b) Wingmen

(4) Acquisition Predictions:

- (a) Mark
- (b) Mil size of corrections
- (c) Target scan technique
- (d) Primary sensor
- (e) System aids

(5) Release:

- (a) Parameters
- (b) Mode
- (c) Weapons allocation
- (d) Abort criteria

(6) Off-Target:

- (a) Maneuver
- (b) Expendable
- (c) Cadence
- (d) Routing

(e) Mutual support

(7) Rendezvous:

(a) Profile

(b) Deconfliction

(c) Cadence

- Attack blueprint variations
- Reattack plan
 - Criteria
 - Minimum disengagement:
 - (1) Time
 - (2) Distance
 - (3) Terrain
 - Communication requirement:
 - (1) Interflight
 - (2) Terminal controller
 - Deconfliction

Return to Force

- Rendezvous

- Position
- Profile
- Damage assessment
- Dump target plan
- Combat checklist
- C2
 - Route
 - Profile
 - Tasking
 - Lame-duck/wounded-bird procedures
 - C2 agencies
 - BDA/S-2 push
 - Integrated Air Defense System (IADS) penetration:
 - (1) IFF/lights/other emitters
 - (2) Air defense warning condition and weapons release status
- Divert/alternate/emergency airfields

Recovery

- C2
- Recovery type
 - Primary
 - Secondary
- NVD stowage
- Formation break-up
- Landing
 - Primary
 - Secondary
- Dearming/safing procedures